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THE BAPTIST Record

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MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

Prayer asked for Korea confrontation

SEOUL, South Korea (BP and local reports) — Christian leaders on the Korean Peninsula are calling for prayer as tensions escalate between North and South Korea over what the South alleges was the intentional sinking of one of that country's military ships by the North.

South Korean leaders say the warship, the 1,200-ton Cheonan, sank March 26 after a North Korean submarine launched a torpedo attack, killing 46 South Korean sailors in one of the South's worst military disasters since the 1950-53 Korean War.

During her May visit to Seoul, South Korea, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton promised the full support of the U.S. government as South Korea seeks United Nations sanctions against the North.

As the South Korean government weighs its response, political and military posturing is on the rise between the two countries. Amid the turmoil, a North Korean refugee is calling on South Korean Christians to join a prayer movement.

"We are praying that the leadership of both countries will have discernment, wisdom and patience," said Thomas Parks (not his real name), a Christian worker based in an undisclosed part of South Korea.

While confrontations between North and South are not uncommon, Christian leaders agree that this latest incident is different from the past. Lewis Rho (not his real name), who heads a humanitarian organization that provides food assistance within the impoverished North, has seen many political and spiritual changes through the years.

Rho believes the sinking of the Cheonan is to South Korea what the 9/11 terrorist attacks were to the United States.

"The way the South Korean government chooses to respond determines what happens next," Rho said. "The important thing is that God is still in control. He still has a special plan and purpose for North Korea — whether regime change happens voluntarily or not."

Foreign policy analysts believe North Korean President Kim Jong-Il may have ordered the attack to divert criticism from the country's failing economy and to make way for his son, Kim Jong-Un, to assume power.

While little is known about the isolated country, Kim is thought to be in failing health. This instability of leadership coupled with a long-running economic crisis leads some to speculate that the totalitarian regime eventually will fail, perhaps sooner rather than later.

As a result, evangelical leaders are praying for South Korean Christians to be ready for the spiritual fallout resulting from North Korea's potential collapse. "I see a need for South Korean Christians to prepare themselves spiritually so that when North Korea does open, they will be ready



PRAYING FOR BREAKTHROUGH — As South Koreans gather in churches during rising tensions with North Korea, prayer is at the forefront of hopes among Christian leaders on the whole of the Korean Peninsula for a breakthrough in evangelism and church planting efforts among North Koreans. (BP file photo)

to respond in Christ-like ways," said Sterling Edwards (not his real name), a Christian worker based in Seoul.

Rho points out that the economic decline of the North was preceded by a spiritual decline, while the South's rise to prominence was preceded by spiritual revival.

"Because South Koreans lived with continuous insecurity, they learned to depend on God," Rho said. "As a result, South Korea is blessed in abundance with churches and church leadership. Today, it is the second-largest missionary sending country in the world."

In modern history, the Korean peninsula was one country through the end of World War II, although it had been occupied by Japan since 1910. The Soviet Union accepted the surrender of Japan's occupation forces north of the 38th parallel in 1945, and the United States did likewise south of the 38th parallel. The country was formally partitioned in 1948 along the 38th parallel, with North Korea falling under Soviet influence and South Korea allying with the United States.

The South is a democratic republic and capitalist, while the North is a Stalinist dictatorship. Christianity and Buddhism are the predominant religions in the South, while all religions have been brutally suppressed in the North.

A ruinous war was fought on the Korean peninsula from 1950-53, after the North invaded the South. The United States backed South Korea, and the Soviet Union and China supported the North. While hostilities ceased 57 years

ago, North and South Korea technically remain in a state of war. Skirmishes between the two countries continue to this day, as evidenced by the sinking of the Cheonan.

Dan Armistead, pastor of Seoul International Baptist Church, said the rapid rise of Christianity in China combined with the strong evangelical presence in South Korea are indications that God is preparing Asian believers to lead the way in evangelism and church planting.

The first step is for South Korean and Chinese Christians to focus their efforts on evangelizing the North, Armistead said. "What is happening here is going to move this nation in that direction," Armistead noted.

Parks agreed. "Spiritually, [South Korean] Christians are ready to evangelize North Koreans," he said. "Quite a few mega-churches and conventions are prepared for that."

"They are not only ready," Armistead said, referencing their spiritual vigilance. "That would be an answer to prayer."

Southern Baptist mission leaders have issued a call to pray for North and South Korea:

- that tension on the peninsula will result in greater spiritual openness in the North.
- that South Korean Christians and other Asian believers will respond in Christ-like ways in opportunities to reach the North.
- that the two countries will one day be unified under a system that brings glory and honor to God.

U.S. House repeals 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — The campaign to overturn the ban on military service by open homosexuals gained two major congressional victories May 27 that increased its likelihood of success.

The House of Representatives voted 234-194 late Thursday for a proposal to repeal the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that has been in force by federal law since 1993. Earlier, the Senate Armed Services Committee approved reversal of the policy in a 16-12 vote.

Both votes came on amendments to an annual Department of Defense authorization bill, which the House passed 229-186 on Friday.

Mississippi Congressmen Travis Childers and Gene Taylor, both Democrats, and Gregg Harper, a Republican, voted against repeal. Mississippi Congressman Bennie Thompson, a Democrat, voted in favor of repeal.

Childers is a member of East Booneville Church in Booneville. Harper is a member of Crossgates Church in Brandon. Taylor is Roman Catholic and Thompson is Methodist.

The full Senate will not take up the legislation before June. A filibuster is available to senators who oppose reversing the ban. Some Republican members have said they would support a filibuster of the authorization bill because of the amendment's inclusion, but the chances of such an effort succeeding are unknown.

The Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy prevents homosexuals from serving openly but also prohibits military commanders from asking service members if they are homosexual or about their sexual orientation.

Supporters of Don't Ask, Don't Tell oppose repeal because they say it will under-

mine military readiness, cohesion, privacy, recruitment, and retention, as well as the religious freedom of many service members and chaplains.

Advocates of maintaining the current policy expressed great dissatisfaction. "I've never known of a better excuse for a filibuster than to stop the Congress of the United States from essentially destroying the greatest military force our nation has ever known," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville.

While a Democratic Congress adopted Don't Ask, Don't Tell 17 years ago with bipartisan support, repeal this year would occur with the help of few Republican votes in the Democrat-controlled chambers.

In the House vote Thursday, only five GOP members joined 229 Democrats in supporting repeal, while 26 Democrats voted with 168 Republicans in opposing it. One GOP senator voted with 15 Democrats for repeal in the Armed Services Committee, while one Democrat joined Republicans in opposition.

Tony Perkins, president of Family Research Council (FRC) and a Marine veteran, said in a written statement, "The hard left of the Democratic Party, led by President Obama and Speaker Pelosi, have chosen to put a political constituency with a radical agenda — the homosexual lobby — ahead of the well-being of our men and women in uniform."

"These politicians have seriously miscalculated if they believe they can use the military to advance this radical social policy without being held accountable," he said.

Tony Perkins is not related to the editor of The Baptist Record, William H. Perkins Jr.

The head of the country's largest homosexual political organization applauded the congressional actions. "Lawmakers today stood on the right side of history," Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese said in a written release. "This is a historic step to strengthen our armed forces and to restore honor and integrity to those who serve our country so selflessly."

President Obama expressed his pleasure at both votes, saying in a written statement repeal "will help make our Armed Forces even stronger and more inclusive by allowing gay and lesbian soldiers to serve honestly and with integrity."

Obama promised during the 2008 election campaign to overturn the ban. During his State of the Union speech in January, the president said he would work for repeal this year.

The House and Senate actions Thursday came only three days after the White House and congressional leaders reached an agreement on a way to pass repeal of the ban before the November elections, which could eliminate the congressional advantage foes of Don't Ask, Don't Tell now possess.

Under the agreement and subsequent legislation, repeal would not go into effect until the Pentagon has finished a study of the issue Dec. 1. The agreement requires that President Obama, Defense Secretary Robert Gates, and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Michael Mullen sign off on repeal of the policy.

All three are on record in support of repeal.

Gates implemented a comprehensive review of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy in March. As part of the study, the Pentagon is eliciting feedback from military personnel and their families. Gates has expressed his desire that Congress wait to act until the review is completed, and in April said he believes "in the strongest possible terms" that the review should be complete prior to any legislative action.

The chiefs of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines reiterated this week their support for

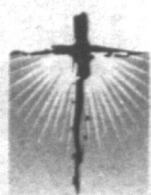
completing review of the current policy before Congress acts. They all said delaying legislative action until the review is complete would signal to military members their views matter.

Obama's Republican opponent in the 2008 presidential election, Sen. John McCain of Arizona, led opposition to repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell in the Senate committee. After the panel's vote, McCain said in a written statement he deeply regretted the result, saying it "short circuits the ongoing Pentagon review of the policy... The vote today is a de facto repeal of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell law, and I am concerned that the men and women of our military will view this pre-emptive political action as a deep sign of disrespect and unwillingness to consider their views."

In the House, the Republicans voting for repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell were Judy Biggert of Illinois, Anh (Joseph) Cao of Louisiana, newly elected Charles Djou of Hawaii, Ron Paul of Texas, and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida.

In addition to Childers and Taylor, the 24 other Democrats voting against repeal were Marion Berry of Arkansas, Sanford Bishop of Georgia, Rick Boucher of Virginia, Bobby Bright of Alabama, Christopher Carney of Pennsylvania, Jerry Costello of Illinois, recently elected Mark Critz of Pennsylvania, Lincoln Davis of Tennessee, Joe Donnelly of Indiana, Chet Edwards of Texas, Bob Etheridge of North Carolina, Gene Green of Texas, Daniel Lipinski of Illinois, Jim Marshall of Georgia, Mike McIntyre of North Carolina, Solomon Ortiz of Texas, Collin Peterson of Minnesota, Earl Pomeroy of North Dakota, Nick Rahall of West Virginia, Mike Ross of Arkansas, Heath Shuler of North Carolina, Ike Skelton of Missouri, John Spratt of South Carolina, and John Tanner of Tennessee.

Bright, Davis, and Shuler, like Childers and Harper, are Southern Baptists.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Stem cell advance

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — British and Indian doctors have achieved a milestone in stem cell research, transplanting a new windpipe, or trachea, into a 10-year-old boy using his own non-embryonic, or adult, stem cells. It marked the first time such a procedure has been performed in a child and was the initial case of an entire trachea being transplanted, the UCL Institute of Child Health in Great Britain reported. The transplant was conducted for a boy who has a rare congenital condition named Long Segment Tracheal Stenosis, which refers to a small windpipe that will not develop. "It is like breathing through a straw and is a life threatening condition," according to the institute. Doctors stripped a donated trachea of the donor's cells and injected stem cells from the boy's bone marrow into the trachea shortly before implanting it in the boy, the institute reported. Using the boy's own stem cells prevents possible problems with transplant rejection. The case, reported in mid-March, is another success for non-embryonic stem cells, which have produced therapies in trials for at least 73 ailments in human beings, according to Do No Harm, a coalition promoting ethics in research. Embryonic stem cell research has yet to generate successful treatments in human beings. However, U.S. President Barack Obama, in one of his first actions upon taking office, reversed a Bush-era prohibition against wide scale-use of embryos for research purposes. Removing stem cells from an embryo necessarily kills the developing human being.

Looking back

10 years ago

Several new and renovated buildings and rooms, along with a new security gate and fence, are dedicated May 7 at the India Nunnery campus of the Baptist Children's Village in Jackson.

20 years ago

Foreign Mission Board head Keith Parks pleads with Southern Baptists to "rise above our controversy and recommit to sharing Christ with the whole world." Parks says that due to the conflict, missionary appointments are down and receipts are inadequate to fund Bold Mission Thrust.

50 years ago

Thirteen prominent Protestant church leaders have joined in asking for a ban on drinking in commercial aircraft. The letter drafted to Congress stated, "It is difficult to understand why no decisive action has been taken to eliminate the service and consumption of alcoholic beverages on commercial airlines."



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Don't be poorly informed

A number of federal officials and others have been publicly embarrassed in recent weeks over their failure to read the new Arizona immigration law before condemning it and threatening the citizens of that state with everything from national boycotts to massive lawsuits.

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, a strong critic of the new law who is preparing to file at least one of those massive lawsuits, had to admit before a committee of Congress that he had not read the law despite his high profile opposition to it. U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, a former Arizona governor and attorney general, was also forced to confess that she had not read the law before she made negative comments about her home state.

U.S. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley affirmed fellow State Department employee Michael Posner for apologizing to the Chinese government for the Arizona law while Posner was in China recently but — as you've probably guessed by now — Crowley had to admit that he had not bothered to read the new law before commenting.

There's a lesson in all of this for Christians and, more specifically, Southern Baptists at this juncture in the life of the convention. The lesson is that we should know what we're talking about before we talk. That sounds like insultingly simple advice, but a quick review of James 3:1-12 should be enough to chastise all of us.

It does the Christian faith no good when its adherents run off at the mouth without a reasonable understanding of the issue at hand. Likewise, Southern Baptists should carefully study our words for truthfulness and integrity before those words are uttered.

That's certainly applicable to the current debate over the final report of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force, which was appointed by SBC President Johnny Hunt and charged with leading the convention into the future of soul-winning across the world.

"A SURVEY BY ACME POLLS REVEALS TO PERCENT OF THOSE INTERVIEWED ADMIT THEY LIE TO POLLSTERS — WHICH MEANS THEY WERE LYING THEN... AND THEREFORE THEY DO NOT LIE TO POLLSTERS... I THINK."



Some Southern Baptists are very much in favor of the report, while others see dark plots between the lines. There have been many words written and even more spoken about the report, and some of it hasn't always been well-informed.

The Great Commission Resurgence Task Force report is one that should be read by all Southern Baptists at www.Pray4GCR.com. As the debate heats up in the days leading up to the report's presentation to the messengers at the 2010 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando, we all need to be informed about it.

"The only thing I am seeing that does concern me is that so many people have not taken time to read the final report," said task force chairman Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church in Springdale, Ar., during a recent conference call organized by the Network of Baptist Associations.

"They are determining what they believe about it based off what they read in one of our Baptist papers or in the blogosphere or what some Baptist

employee determines he is going to share with them. We want people to base their convictions on the report itself, not off someone else's interpretation of it," he said.

When the future of the Southern Baptist Convention is at stake, it's really not too much to ask for people to be informed about what they're saying. Too many times in Baptist life, we don't take the time to fully study an issue before engaging our mouths.

What kind of witness is that to a lost world? The enemies of our faith are eager to hear our poorly-informed misstatements so they can continue to portray us as bumptkins, fanatics, and worse.

Perhaps the eyes of the lost will not be trained on Orlando while Southern Baptists gather there, but we can be assured that our every word and deed will be scrutinized, summarized and transmitted to lost people as news. What kind of image do we want to project?

Let's all get informed, stay informed, and measure our words carefully in the coming weeks — no matter the outcome of the looming vote of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force's final report. It certainly seems to be the responsible thing to do.

Report garners endorsements before Orlando meeting

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP and local reports) — Three Southern Baptist leaders and a well-known pastor have issued public statements endorsing the final report of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force. Task force chairman Ronnie Floyd also has delivered a new appeal for support of their concept of Great Commission Giving.

The task force will recommend to messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, June 15-16 in Orlando, Fla., that annual statistical reports on congregational life will note a Great Commission Giving category that would focus solely on giving to Southern Baptist causes, rather than the current category of Total Missions Giving, which can include non-Southern Baptist missions causes. Cooperative Program gifts would be a component of Great Commission Giving.

In a statement posted May 26 on the GCRTF website, www.pray4gcr.com, Floyd said that, amid all the attention being directed at the proposal, "the intent is questioned, the facts are ignored, and the great

things in the report about the Great Commission are being overlooked."

In his statement, Floyd reiterated seven facts about the giving proposal, including a reminder that the task force report emphasizes the SBC's Cooperative Program giving channel would be one component of the broader Great Commission Giving category, and the "central and preferred conduit of Great Commission funding."

Floyd also noted that the report "provides an additional year for this to be studied by the Executive Committee of our Convention."

The full text of Floyd's statement can be read at www.pray4gcr.com.

Endorsements of the final report came from Bill Crews, executive director of the Northwest Baptist Convention in Vancouver, Wa.; O.S. Hawkins, president and CEO of GuideStone Financial Resources in Dallas; Milton A. Hollifield Jr., executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina in Cary, N.C.; and David Platt, pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Al.

In his statement posted on the task force website, Crews offered four reasons he can support the proposal: It "is built on a 'Theology for Great Commission Faithfulness,'" "properly focuses on the centrality of the local church in carrying out the Great Commission," "challenges the Southern Baptist Convention and each cooperating church with a missional vision to 'present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in the world and to make disciples of all the nations,'" and sharpens the focus of the North American Mission Board to "long overdue and necessary" priority on evangelism and church planting "with an emphasis on the reaching of the cities and underserved regions and people groups of North America."

The full text of Crews' statement can be read at www.pray4gcr.com.

"The GCR report provides the makings of a new, fresh and expanded vision for our future, one in which we can all embrace together... Let's go to Orlando and with one voice and in one accord rally behind the vision that has directed the

church for two thousand years. We could well be on the verge of... a new day," said Hawkins.

The full text of Hawkins' statement can be read at www.pray4gcr.com.

Hollifield said he will vote for the task force report because it met its assigned task and because once approved, the recommendations will go to the SBC Executive Committee and to the boards of the SBC entities where they will receive the study and input from Southern Baptists they deserve and require, the article noted.

The Biblical Recorder article about Hollifield's comments can be read at <http://www.biblicalrecorder.org>.

While he describes himself as "thoroughly Southern Baptist," Platt said believers are "created for and called to something much greater than" the well-being of a denomination. He said he wants "desperately to cooperate with other churches but 'for the sake of the Great Commission,' not for 'the survival of the Southern Baptist Convention.'"

The full text of Platt's statement can be read at www.pray4gcr.com.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27_NAS

June 3, 2010

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

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Hebrews 12:1-2

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Clue: M = V

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Three: Twenty-nine

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UGLY JOE

Just so you will not have to read too much to know what this article is about, let me just tell you right up front Joe is a dog. He was kind of a neighborhood dog and the folks in the neighborhood named him "Ugly Joe." I had heard about Ugly Joe before I actually saw him. I had heard about him because he had a reputation and it was probably well deserved. He was not necessarily a mean dog. He was just a neighborhood dog that belonged to no one and belonged to everyone. He just spent his time rambling around going from place to place and occasionally as he would be looking into the possibilities of eating or socializing, it would get him in trouble. Just hearing stories about Ugly Joe and his escapades made you wonder what he actually looked like. What kind of dog was he and why was it that folks would call him such a terrible name?

One day I was with some folks who knew Ugly Joe and as we rode along in the car, a man and his wife said almost at the same time, "There he is!" I looked and sitting there on the porch of a building was a somewhat odd-looking and for sure slightly ugly creature. It was Ugly Joe.

Now some of you may have seen a dog or even a cat that was so ugly that it was actually cute. That was not Ugly Joe. Ugly Joe was so ugly that he was just down right ugly. We had stopped and I just stared at Ugly Joe. I wanted to be positive and wanted to be encouraging or maybe redemptive about his looks, but I do not know if I have actually seen a dog that looked as poorly designed as this one did. We drove on and while he was out of sight, he was certainly not out of mind as I continued to think about him, reflect on his name, and wonder how he got that way.

Reflecting on Ugly Joe caused me to think about how the way that we look affects our relationships. If the truth be known, and people would express themselves without restraint, we might be named similarly something like Ugly Jim, Ugly Bob, Ugly Nola Jo, or something like that. While we rarely do that, at least openly and harmfully, we may tend to do that in other ways.

The first thing that came to my mind is that no one asks to be born to look the way he or she does. Neither the person, mama, nor daddy has any say so in determining the look of a child. I certainly



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

understand that genetically when all of the chromosomes line up and all of the genetic influences take place as a mama and daddy come together, you never know what the child is going to look like. The child does not determine what he or she is going to look like.

In our world of souped-up, hyper emphasis on good looks, virtually everybody struggles with some deficiency or abnormality of some aspect of body or looks. It is sad how we distort the important things of life and overemphasize the unimportant things. People grow up with a warped or poor self-image because they feel like their name is Ugly Pete or Ugly Peggy.

It also reminded me of the old saying that beauty is in the eye of the beholder - but so is ugly. In just a flash of a thought, I wondered if Ugly Joe's mama thought he was ugly. Then I was bothered because I wondered if Ugly Joe was sitting on that porch staring out at me and thinking, "There's that guy they call Ugly Jim." Then my thoughts turned to the concern both for me and for all of us that we so quickly evaluate, analyze, and maybe even reject people because of external features and fail to see the wealth of goodness and giftedness that goes much deeper and is much more significant than just looks.

Somehow we always seem to want to place our own images on someone when we may have talked with them, heard them, or do not know what their appearance actually is. I remember some years ago when as a pastor I was on the radio. Because our services were broadcast week after week, someone had called in and asked me to go by and visit a lady in the hospital who listened to our services regularly. I was her radio pastor.

In a day or so, I went by the hospital, found her room, knocked on the door and opened it. I spoke to her and said, "I am Jim Futral and I just wanted to come by, meet you, and visit with you." She was shocked and not because I would come and not because she was thrilled to meet me, but she was shocked when she saw me. So help me, this is what she said. "After hearing you on the radio all of these years, I just thought that you would be tall, dark, and handsome. You are not tall or dark." I responded, "No Ma'am." I guess in her case, she had anticipated meeting Handsome Jim and in walked old Ugly Jim. I did not ask, but I thought about how that affected the messages she heard me preach or how it

altered her understanding of, reception to, or rejection of the messages that she would hear in the future. I do not know, but I do know that we miss out on a lot of blessings from the Lord and relationships He sends our way because of our misinterpretation of external appearances.

A final thought about old Ugly Joe was that he actually served a good purpose. It may be a little bit of a weak argument but he was a good example of a bad-looking dog. It could be that you and I do not always serve the best of purposes and the highest standards are not where we live. Maybe you, like me, are a great and good example of a poor and bad singer. While others may be gifted to stand and speak publicly in articulate and moving ways, you may have to settle for being a great example of a poor communicator. You can fill in your own blanks of being a good example of less than sterling quality, but it may be where each of us finds ourselves at times.

Here is where we are and you can mark this down that regardless of the adjectives that describe your life, God made you. He has special plans and purposes for your life. He can overcome deficiencies, and He can gloriously magnify the very being that He created. He can use you to bless others. Ugly Joe blessed me and now by the grace of our Lord Jesus with the love that He has put in my heart for others, I want to do the same thing.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

MS POSITIONS

CORINTH BAPTIST CHURCH - Magee, MS is now accepting resumes for Youth Minister. Please submit resumes to: Youth Search Committee, 207 Church Road, Magee, MS 39111. The deadline for submission is June 30, 2010.

MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH, A Southern Baptist Congregation, is seeking a F/T Pastor with seminary degree and experience as Pastor. Please send resumes to: Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, Attn: Neal Wallis, 35 CR 7511 Baldwin, Miss. 38824

THE MUSIC SEARCH COMMITTEE of Star Baptist Church is now accepting resumes for a Full-time Worship Leader/Associate Minister. Please send resumes to starbaptistresumes@gmail.com

PART-TIME SECRETARY - 15 - 20 hours a week. QuickBooks experience preferred. Please send resume to: Pineview Baptist Church 1288 Clinton-Raymond Rd Clinton, MS 39056 or email it to pineviewbc@bellsouth.net

VAIDEN BAPTIST CHURCH SEEKING a P/T Music Director. Send resumes to Music Minister Search Committee, c/o Homie Holly, Vaiden Baptist Church, 501 Mulberry Street, Vaiden, Ms. 39176 or Call 662-464-5275 or 662-464-8821.

SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH IS receiving resumes for the full-time position of Student Minister. Mail resumes to Southside Baptist Church, 1213 West Bypass, Andalusia, AL 36420. ATTN: Student Minister Search Committee.

THE MOBILE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION of Mobile Alabama is currently seeking to fill the position of the Director of International Ministries. Please visit www.mobilebaptists.org for information and instructions.

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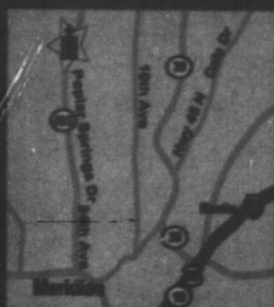
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Churches Practicing Redemption

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September 14, 2010 from 2:30 - 5:00 PM
Poplar Springs Drive Baptist Church
4031 Poplar Springs Dr., Meridian, MS 39305



September 16, 2010 from 2:30 - 5:00 PM
First Baptist Church Gulfport
12150 Highway 605, Gulfport, MS 39506



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SHINE ON

Matthew 5:16

Mississippi Baptist Youth Nights 2010

Two Big Nights This Year!

September 16-17, 2010

9:00 PM - 1:00 AM

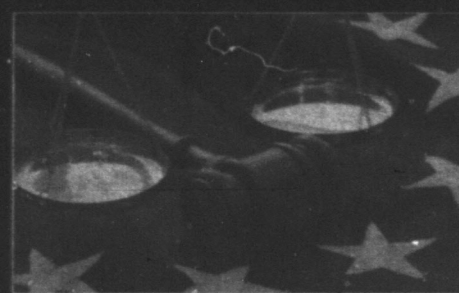
9:00 PM - 1:00 AM

9:00 PM - 1:00 AM

Margaret Lackey
UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI



BSU programs are assisted by Margaret Lackey in mobilizing more than 300 short-term student missionaries serving around the world, including hundreds that choose to spend their Christmas vacation serving in China.



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July 30-31
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Schedule

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Saturday, July 31, 8:00 am - 12:30 pm

For registration
and information contact
Karin Eason at
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Dianne Cockrell
Skillshops

Lana Rose
Certification

Professional Certification
for Ministry Assistants and
Ministry Office Skillshops

August 17-19, 2010

GARAYWA CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CLINTON

1 The Call to Follow Christ

This skillshop is taken from the discipleship study book by the same name written by Claude King. This is a devotional study to help the ministry assistant grow in her relationship to Christ. In the study, ministry assistants study the six disciplines for new and growing believers: abide in Christ, live in the Word, pray in faith, fellowship with believers, witness to the world, and minister to others.

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Ministry assistants always seem to be involved in planning events. No matter what kind or size of event you are planning, there are certain questions or issues that have to be addressed. You want your event to be organized and your attendees to be happy and leave with a good feeling, knowing they received what they came for. This skillshop is designed to give you practical guidance in making any event successful and help you enjoy the planning and implementation.

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- **GOD'S CALL** - what we believe and the work of the denomination.
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- **LEADERSHIP** - varied roles and responsibilities that a ministry assistant assumes.
- **COMMUNICATION** - processes and the importance of communication (written and verbal) in the ministry assistant's role.
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QUESTIONS?

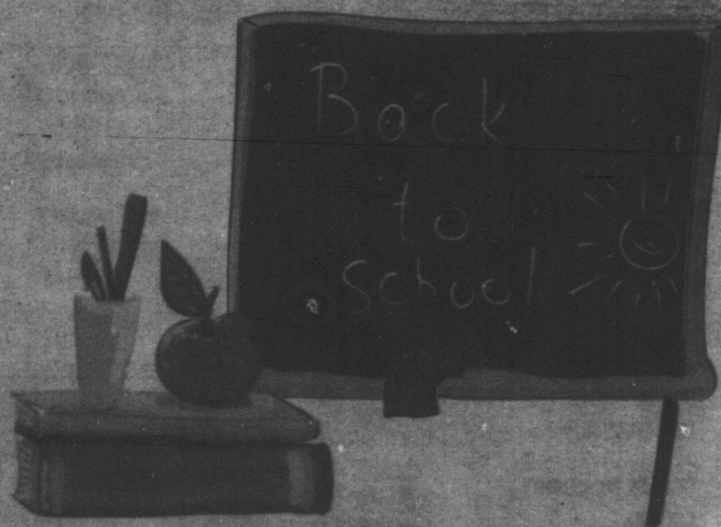
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July 25, 2010
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Appreciation Emphasis

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STAFF CHANGES

1. **First Church, Helena, Moss Point**, has called John Merck as pastor. He and his wife, Ruth, come from Pickens County, S. Carolina. He has pastored churches in Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana. He was in full-time evangelism until 1993 when he went to Fellowship

Church, Baton Rouge, La., as first pastor. He went back into evangelism in 2000 before coming to First Church, Helena. He was educated at North Greenville Jr. College, Greenville, S.C.; Holmes Theological Seminary, Greenville, S.C.; William

Carey College; New Orleans Seminary; and the University of South Alabama, Mobile, Ala.

2. **Walthall Church, Webster**, has called Mike Ramage as pastor, effective May 1. He is shown with his wife, Pattie.

3. **Graceland Church, Vancleave**, welcomed Trey Spangler as pastor on Sunday, April 18. Spangler, a native of Pinola, received his Bachelor of Arts degree in religion from William Carey College in Hattiesburg and his Master of Divinity degree from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary School of Theology in Louisville, Ky. Shown with Spangler is his wife, Keisha.

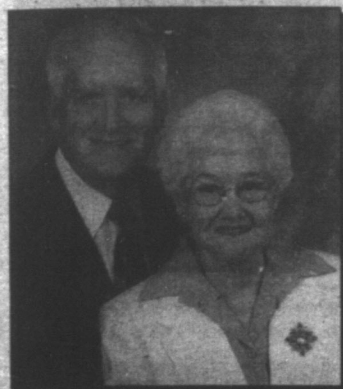
4. **Mt. Zion Church, Taylorsville**, has called Gary Robertson as pastor. He is shown with his wife, Renee, son, Wade, and daughter, Chelse.

5. **Fairhaven Church, Olive Branch**, has called Gary Watkins as pastor. Watkins served as pastor of First Church, Collierville, Tenn., for eighteen years before retiring ten years ago. Since that time he has served in several churches as interim pastor, the most recent being First Church, Indianola, where he served for two years. He is a graduate of William Carey College and Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and has been active in the work of the association, the State and Southern Baptist Conventions. Watkins and his wife Brenda have three children and three grandchildren.

6. **Providence Church, Cleveland**, called J.B. Hayes, Jr., as pastor Jan. 31. In ministry for 33 years and formerly serving churches in Tennessee,

Canada, and Kansas, he served First Church in Tutwiler for 18 years, simultaneously serving Union Chapel while there. A North American Mission

Board endorsed Chaplain with Milestone Hospice in Cleveland, he is shown with his wife Rose, and family, Joel Hays of Oxford and Anna Hays of Clinton.



1. The Merks



2. The Ramages



3. The Spanglers



4. The Robertsons



6. The Hayes

OBITUARY

Services for Darnell Archie, of Petal, were held May 13 at Sunrise Church in Petal, with burial in Indian Springs Cemetery, Petal. Archie, 74, died May 10 at Forrest General Hospital, Hattiesburg. He was born in Union on Feb. 7, 1936, to Verna and Alafair Dorman Archie. He was a graduate of William Carey College in Hattiesburg. He was a retired minister, having pastored churches in Alabama, Idaho, and Mississippi. He was a member of Sunrise Church. He went on many mission trips, and served on committees in the state convention. He was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters. Survivors are his wife, Bernice Spiers Archie, of Petal, his son, Chris Archie and wife Nancy, of Daphne, Ala., his daughters, Elizabeth Murphy and husband, Kelsey, and Deborah Lewis and husband Kelton, all of Petal, and 7 grandchildren.

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

1. **Port Gibson Church, Port Gibson**: June 7 - 11; 9 a.m. - noon; 1st through 6th grade.
2. **Hinkle Church, Rienzi**: June 7 - 11; 6 - 8 p.m.; ages 4 - 6th grade.
3. **Corinth, Emmanuel, Cornerstone, and First Churches, Nicholson**: June 13 - 18; Sun., kickoff and cookout, 3 - 5:30 p.m.; Mon. - Thurs., 6 - 8:30 p.m.; Fri., Family Night, 6 - 7:30 a.m.; hosted at Emmanuel Church.

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June 24-26, 2010

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Thursday 24th



Triumphant Qt
Friday 25th



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Saturday 26th

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June 4 - June 17, 2010

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"For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him ..."

II Chronicles 16:9

Pray for a team from **Petal Harvey BC** in Petal as part of the team serves in Buenos Aires and part in San Isidro. Pray for this team as they minister in a variety of ways to the Argentine people, June 5-12.

Pray for: (1) WMU, SBC Annual Meeting, Orlando, Fla (WMU); (2) Pray for American troops around the world who put themselves in harms way daily to serve the needs of others and protect America.

Pray for: (1) Ultimate Youth Week (MBCB) Student Week & Central Hills Youth Week, Central Hills, 7th-8th (SS/MM); (2) GA Camp, Garaywa, 7th-11th. (WMU)

Pray for: (1) Children's Missions Camp (coed) Central Hills, 14th-16th (MM); (2) Student Week, William Carey University, 14th-18th (SS); (3) GA Camp, Garaywa, 14th-18th.

Pray for: (1) Heart Song Youth, Music & Worship Arts Camp, William Carey University, 7th-11th (CM); (2) a team from **Good Hope BC**, Camden, traveling to the Dominican Republic to do VBS, outreach and food distribution, June 7-14.

Pray for a team from **FBC, Florence** traveling to Cicero, NY, to help renovate the first ever building for Lakeshore BC by October, their ten year anniversary as a church, June 14-18

Pray for: (1) Baptist Building At Home Days; (2) peace to prevail in Thailand, a hub for many mission agencies serving SE Asia. Many teams are scheduled to serve there or fly through to their place of service this summer.

Pray for the Southern Baptist Convention taking place in Orlando, FL. Pray that Southern Baptist leaders will heed the Lord's leadership in making decisions that will affect us all as Southern Baptists.

A team from **Boulevard BC** in Southaven is traveling to Japan. Pray for this team as they participate in evangelism efforts, June 9-19.

Pray for: (1) Children's Missions Camp (coed), Central Hills, 17th-19th (MM); (2) national believers on the "Coffee Island" in SE Asia to urgently reach their own people for Christ. The believers have been trained in evangelism and discipleship.

Pray for: (1) Lad/Dad Weekend, Central Hills, 4th-15th (MM); (2) Fathers to be very intentional in spending quality time with their children modeling the character of Christ.

A team from **Mantee BC** is traveling to Ukraine to help with a children's mission event. Pray for this team as ministry is done through VBS and adult Bible study, June 10-23.

Pray for a team from **Alcorn Baptist Association** traveling to Cicero, NY, to help renovate the first ever building for Lakeshore BC by October, their ten year anniversary as a church, June 5-12.

Pray for the people of Somalia, a nation in shambles where the people live in fear of those in power. There hasn't been a functioning government in this country for 19 years. The people are desperate for hope.

2010 SENIOR ADULT REGIONAL RALLIES

NORTHERN RALLY

Tuesday, August 24

FBC, Oxford

(662-234-3515)

PREACHER: SONNY ADKINS

Mendenhall, former Director
Evangelism, MBCB

CHOIR: LAMPLIGHTERS, Clarksdale BC

CONFERENCES:

- "Fun Time w/Daryl Logan"
- Ventriloquist from Bruce
- "Praying Without Ceasing"

Michael Weeks

Pastor at Pleasant Hill BC, Olive Branch

- "Motivating Seniors"

David Smith, Minister of Recreation/Seniors

Harrisburg BC, Tupelo

Cost \$1 at the door

SCHEDULE FOR RALLIES

8:30 a.m.

Registration
Refreshments

9:00

Rally

10:00

Break

10:30

Conferences

11:30

Adjourn

SOUTHERN RALLY

Thursday, August 26

Family Association Center

Collins

(601-765-4689)

SPEAKER: JIMMY PORTER

Executive Director-Treasurer

Christian Action Commission, MBCB

CHOIR: SINGING SAINTS, Meridian

CONFERENCES:

- "Fun Time w/Tony"

Tony Martin (magic/humor)

Associate Editor, *Baptist Record*, MBCB

- "Praying Without Ceasing"

Talmadge Smith, Retired AMD, Brookhaven

- "Motivating Seniors"

Ken Hopkins, Minister of Senior Adults

Temple BC, Hattiesburg

HOUSE TOPS

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE When Leaders Fail

1 Samuel 2:22-25; 3:19-21

By Tony Martin

What we do for God and how we do it matters. If we fail in the sacred trust God has given us, He will find faithful servants to carry out His will.

Case in point: Eli and his sons. In this passage, Eli's sons, who were wicked priests, provoked God. God showed His control over the situation by replacing them with a faithful prophet.

We first see a sacred trust violated in 1 Samuel 2:22-25. "Now Eli, who was very old, heard about everything his sons were doing to all Israel and how they slept with the women who served at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting." (1 Samuel 2:22, NIV) Immediately we can see the wickedness of Samuel's sons. Samuel's sons - priests! - were

indulging in sin that is eons old. It can be tempting to look at our country and bemoan the state we are in where morals seem to be a thing of the past, but here is evidence that what we see today is nothing new - actually, immorality has been an issue ever since Noah's time.

Samuel awakes from his lethargy. "So he said to them, 'Why do you do such things? I hear from all the people about these wicked deeds of yours.'" (v. 23) There isn't much evidence that Samuel plans to do much about the lives his sons are living, doing something perfectly scandalous before all Israel. Verse 24 continues, "No, my sons; it is not a good report that I hear spreading among the LORD's people." Samuel doesn't seem to be particularly



Martin

agitated about what he is hearing. Might the people view what the sons are doing as acceptable, perhaps even entering into the same behavior? Samuel comes across as indulgent; the best he can muster is this mild rebuke.

"If a man sins against another man, God may mediate for him; but if a man sins against the LORD, who will intercede for him?" His sons, however, did not listen to their father's rebuke, for it was the LORD's will to put them to death." (v. 25) Here is the crux of the matter: What Samuel's sons were doing transcended any violation of man against man. They had violated the sacred trust given them as priests. Unfortunately, life experience shows us that not everyone is trustworthy and faithful in their responsibilities, and this can apply to elected officials, pastors, Sunday School teachers, parents, any-

one. Have you violated God's trust as a husband, wife, parent, or in some other role God has given?

Second, note that the Lord does what He thinks is good. "And the LORD said to Samuel: 'See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears of it tingle.'" (1 Sam. 3:11) This passage is from the classic account when the Lord reveals to Samuel what He was going to do to Eli and his sons. Eli asked Samuel what God had said, and Eli responded, "He is the LORD; let him do what is good in his eyes." (v. 18) So, when disciplined by God, do you agree with His correction? Do you have the courage to confront your brothers and sisters when they are in sin? It's important to remember that God does not necessarily deal with all sins in the same way, but His ways are always good.

Finally, God still speaks His word. In the midst of the disobedience of the leadership, God confirmed Samuel as His

prophet. "The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the LORD. The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word." (1 Sam. 3:19-21)

God has consistently revealed Himself by His Word. He did it then; He continues to do so now. It is through the ministry of His Spirit that He reveals Himself in scripture. Even in the midst of the disobedience of leadership, God confirmed Samuel as His prophet.

We live in a post-Christian country. In the midst of a confusing world, can we still hear the voice of a true prophet? Are we willing to accept new leadership in our churches that God raises up to confront the days in which we live? The word of God is still true and must be heeded.

Martin is the Associate Editor of *The Baptist Record*.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE Four Ways to Promote Church Unity

1 Corinthians 1:10, 21-31; 3:9-10, 16-17

By Laura Leathers

Paul's greeting to the Church of God at Corinth begins with a stern, yet positive reminder: sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling (1 Cor. 1:2). Paul had been informed that the church he had planted (Acts 18:1-17), had a serious problem—worldliness. They were focused on man's knowledge and ways instead of God's. This was the basis for divisions and disunity within the church. William Barclay writes "it is here where some of Paul's greatest work was done and some of the mightiest triumphs of Christianity were won." The Corinthian letters address the problems and reveals God's solution for a healthy and growing church.

FOCUS ON MEMBERS' AGREEMENT - 1 Cor. 1:10
In the first chapter Paul ref-

erences the name of Christ repeatedly, emphasizing Christ is the foundation!

"Doctrinal unity, clearly and completely based on Scripture, must be the foundation of all church life. Both weak commitment to doctrine and commitment to disunity of doctrine will severely weaken a church and destroy true unity" (MacArthur Study Bible).

Is it possible for believers to all agree and have no divisions among you? The answer is yes when it comes to agreement regarding doctrine. Our focus should be on the Unity of Christ (1 Cor. 1:13; 12:13), the Desire of Christ (John 17:21-23), the Purpose of the Christ (John 10:16) and the Spirit of the Church (1 Cor. 11:16). The heart of the matter, divisions are actually proof of a self-centered spirit (1 Cor. 3:3).



Leathers

FOCUS ON THE GOSPEL'S TRUTH - 1 Cor. 1:21-25

The word 'wisdom' is used throughout the Corinthian letters; unity comes through God's wisdom. The church is built upon the Word of God (Heb. 4:12; Eph. 4:15-16). The called (v. 24), those who have accepted God's offer of salvation (vv. 18, 21), have a responsibility to know the truth (2 Tim. 4:15) and act upon it (James 1:22). We either trust in God or the foolishness of the world. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge" (Prov. 1:7). "To lose the fear of God is to lose the fear of sin. To lose the fear of sin is to lose the relationship with God" (Blackaby's A God Centered Church). Has the Church of Christ lost its fear of sin?

"It seems to me that one of the most subtle and dangerous threats facing the Word of God is coming from within the category of evangelical Christianity, by people who claim to believe the Bible to be

the Word of God but betray a lack of trust in its sufficiency and therein speak evil of the Word of God" (Grace to You Website, John MacArthur).

FOCUS ON GOD'S WORK - 1 Cor. 1:26-31

God chooses the weak, the poor, and the ordinary to show His grace to a proud world. The gift of grace is the transforming power of God in a believer's life—His Work. Paul refers to the book of Jeremiah: "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me..." (Jer. 9:23-24).

How easy it is to follow the standards of the world, instead of living up to the holy calling God has placed upon our lives. Instead of glorifying God we glorify man. "Only in obedience will God's name be glorified. And if His name is being profaned by our disobedience, He cannot and will not bless! His name is at stake before a watching world" (Blackaby, page).

FOCUS ON THE CHURCH'S BEST - 1 Cor. 3:9-10; 16-17

The foundation, laid by the grace of God is to be built upon by believers through faithful ministry. How believers chose to build upon this foundation will be revealed with the test of fire. The church is not a building but a living entity empowered by the Holy Spirit who lives in every believer. We are the temple of God!

"The church is supreme among God's purposes for every believer. There God's people are to experience a holy fear of God as they encounter Him in the Word. There God's people are drawn into a loving relationship with Him, and one another as they experience koinonia. There God's people enter a covenant that produces blessing beyond measure. There the call of God is heard and received to reach out and touch a lost world. There His people accept the cost to be on mission with their Lord in extending the kingdom of God" (Blackaby's, pg. 300). This is one accord!

Note: Scripture taken from NASB

Leathers is a member of First Church, Durant.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

THE BAPTIST
Record

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

BIBLE DRILLS

1. **Clear Creek Church, Oxford**, recognizes its children's Bible drillers and Bible buddies. Front

row, Madison Daniels and Trent Butler; second row, Hollin Webb and Jared Redding; third row:

Kady Smith, Anna Grace Allen, and Meredith Lewis.

2. **Belden Church, Belden**, recognizes its youth Bible driller, Cassidy Blaylock.



1. Clear Creek Church, Oxford



2. Belden Church, Belden

3. **Immanuel Church, Greenwood**, recognizes its Bible drillers. From left: Analise Bush, Mary Morgan Plunkett, Mollie

Tucker, Logan Tucker, and Dallen Dunn.

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3. Immanuel Church, Greenwood

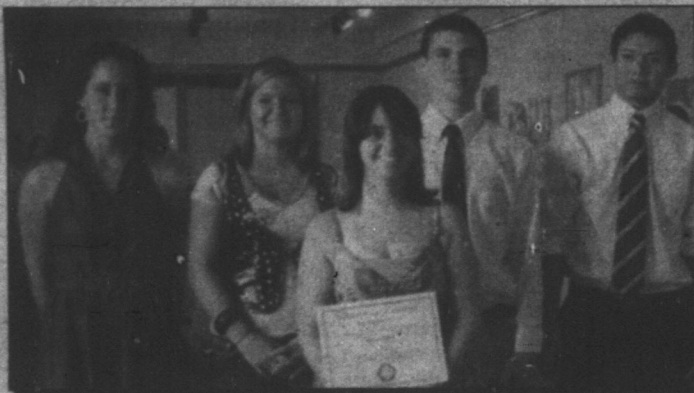
COLLEGE & SEMINARY NEWS

1. Brandy Smith of Purvis High School, Temple Hughes of Presbyterian Christian High School, Katrina Coker of West Jones High School, Brendan Woods of Purvis High School, and Omar Rivas of Covington County Vocational Center, pose for pictures following presentation of awards at the First Annual High School Art Competition hosted by William Carey University. Smith won Second Place. Hughes won Third Place. Coker won the President's Award. Woods won Best in Show. Rivas won First Place.

resident earned a Master of Arts degree in English at MC, and received her doctorate in English at Louisiana State University.

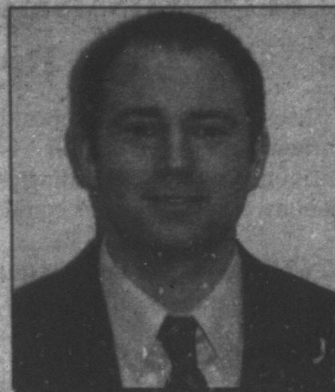
4. **Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.**, is launching a new online Master of Arts in Theological Studies degree, following trustee approval and a recommen-

dation from a focus visit team from the Higher Learning Commission, which is Midwestern's regional accreditor. According to seminary leaders, the new degree program is a first-of-its-kind among Southern Baptist Convention seminaries.



1. William Carey University art competition winners

2. J.D. Parker, who four years ago began the men's basketball program at Ecclesia College, has been named the men's basketball coach at Blue Mountain College. Parker's teams compiled a 64-55 record at Ecclesia, a liberal arts college in Springdale, Ark., and member of the National Christian Collegiate Athletic Association. Parker, 28, and his wife, Rebecca, have three children. He will replace Jerry Conner, who started the BMC program three years ago and recently stepped down to return to his home in Phoenix.



2. Parker



3. Jordan

3. Kerri Jordan has been named Mississippi College's Distinguished Professor of the Year for 2010. A 1997 MC graduate with a triple major in English, history, and modern languages, the Brandon

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS



5. Liberty Church, Winston Association

- Hebron Church, Panola County:** Revival, June 6-9; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by potluck meal and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Charles Steele, speaker; Terry Floyd, music; Terry Tribble, pastor.
- Coldwater Church, Philadelphia:** Homecoming, June 13; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by potluck dinner; Herschel Kilpatrick, speaker; Steve Turner, music.
- Hinkle Church, Rienzi:** Homecoming, June 6; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by fellowship meal and special singing; Charles "Perk" Palmer, Sara Steiner, and Michelle Miles, music; Paul Stacy, pastor.
- Shiloh Church, Big Creek:** Homecoming, June 6, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Johnny Hearn, pastor.
- Liberty Church, Winston Association:** Revival results, Apr. 18-21; revival led by Campers on Mission; four professions of faith, numerous rededications; shown are the Campers on Mission.
- New Hope Church, Harmontown:** Homecoming, June 6; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner, special music and worship; Crossing Jordan, music.

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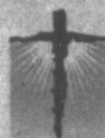
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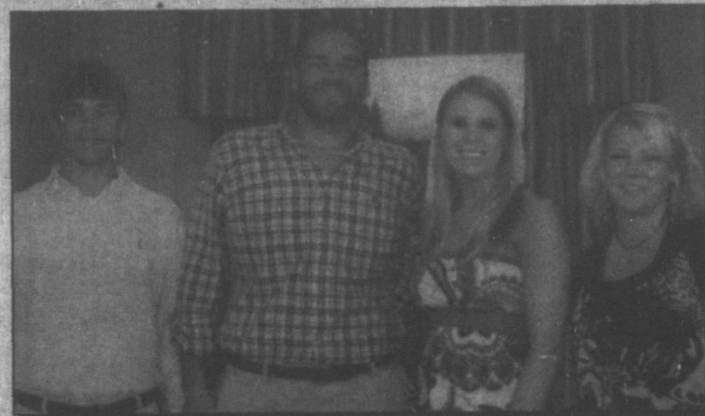


1. New Hope Church, Sumrall

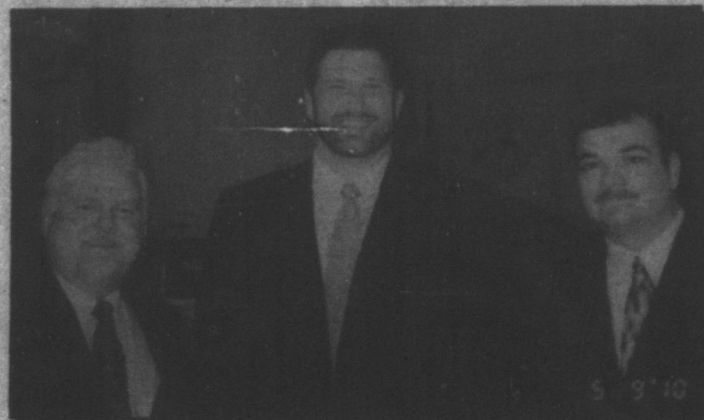


MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

1. New Hope Church, Sumrall, held a baby dedication May 9. Shown are the participants. Charles Broome, pastor.
2. First Church, Pearl, recently ordained Wesley Sullivan to the gospel ministry. He is currently serving as children's director at Brookhills Church, Birmingham, Ala. Shown is Kevin Carroll, Sullivan, and pastor Jeff Buchanan.
3. Sunrise Church, Carthage, held their graduate recognition May 16. Graduates shown are Geordam Permenter, Anse Rigby, Connie Savell, and Chasity Keel.
4. Mt. Zion Church, Taylorsville, elected new deacons. Shown are pastor Gary Robertson, Bruce Blakeney, James Yates, and Calvin Vowell.



3. Sunrise Church, Carthage



2. Sullivan ordination



4. Mt. Zion Church, Taylorsville

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